

Appln. No. 09/941,643

P21366.A14 (S 459/US/Div/Cont)

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-18 and 20-42 will remain pending, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 16, and 38 being independent.

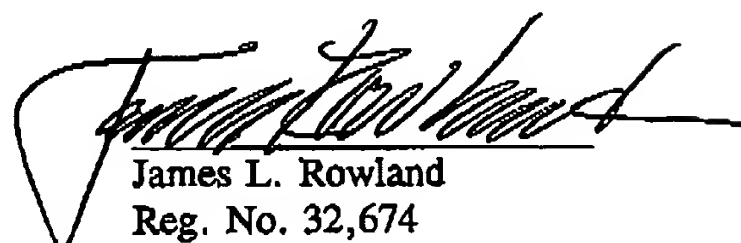
The amendment follows a telephone conversation with the Examiner, during which the Examiner requested an amendment to the independent claims. The Examiner's position was that the expression "made by pressing", for example, as it appeared in independent claims, was not a *structural* limitation.

In the amendment presented above, the expression "comprising a stamped metal" has been introduced. In addition to the limitation referring to a "metal", the limitation uses the term "stamped" as a *structural* modifier/limitation regarding the "rib", "boss", "flange", *e.g.*, of the respective claims. Applicant's representative pointed out that although the word "stamped" is a verb form, in the context of the claims it is a participle (a *past* participle) that functions as an adjective. Analogously, it was pointed out, in considering the expression "fried green tomatoes," one would readily appreciate that the tomatoes at issue are not raw, for example. That is, the word "fried" *structurally* modifies the word "tomatoes," as an adjective, as does the word "green."

Entry of the amendment is requested to be entered, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.312, particularly in view of the amendment having been presented as a result of a request by the Examiner.

Any comment or question concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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